

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 05539 01 OF 03 281917Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 05539

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TAGS: MILI, MORG, MPOL, GW
SUBJECT: NEW FRG DEFENSE MINISTER REVERSES PREDECESSOR'S
POLICIES ON BUNDESWEHR STRUCTURE AND CONTROL
OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

BEGIN SUMMARY: AFTER ONLY SIX WEEKS IN OFFICE DEFENSE
MINISTER APEL HAS MADE THREE MAJOR DECISIONS EITHER
MODIFYING OR REVERSING HIS PREDECESSOR'S POLICIES. HE
HAS DIRECTED THE BUNDESWEHR TO REEVALUATE PLANS FOR
RESTRUCTURING THE BUNDESWEHR -- THE ARMY MODEL IV CONCEPT
-- AND HAS MEANWHILE DELAYED A FINAL DECISION ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN UNTIL JUNE. HIS DECISION
IS LARGELY DUE TO PROJECTED INCREASES IN PERSONNEL
COSTS RANGING FROM 800 MILLION TO 1 BILLION DM PER
ANNUM WHICH THE FULL INTRODUCTION OF THE CONCEPT IN
THE BUNDESWEHR WOULD NECESSITATE. THE NEW DEFENSE
MINISTER HAS ALSO DROPPED A PROPOSAL BY THE INSPECTOR
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PAGE 02 BONN 05539 01 OF 03 281917Z

GENERAL OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR THE CREATION OF A FOURTH
MILITARY SERVICE COMPOSED OF THE SUPPORT ELEMENTS OF
THE EXISTING SERVICES -- A PLAN WHICH WAS STRONGLY
OPPOSED BY THE INDIVIDUAL SERVICE CHIEFS, AS WELL AS
BY A BROAD SPECTRUM OF THE OFFICER CORPS. FINALLY,
APEL HAS RESCINDED LEBER'S ORDER TO SUBORDINATE THE
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (MAD) DIRECTLY UNDER

THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S OFFICE. THE CHIEF OF MAD WILL
ONCE AGAIN REPORT THROUGH THE MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND
TO THE APPROPRIATE STATE SECRETARY. END SUMMARY.

1. DEFENSE MINISTER HANS APEL IS THE FIRST FRG DEFENSE
MINISTER WHO SAW NO SERVICE IN EITHER THE WEHRMACHT OR
THE BUNDESWEHR. HE HAS, THROUGHOUT HIS POLITICAL LIFE,
GENERALLY DISTANCED HIMSELF FROM DEFENSE ISSUES.

2. APEL'S LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH THE MILITARY SCENE
WAS CAUSE FOR A CERTAIN UNEASINESS AND A BIT OF
SKEPTICISM IN FRG DEFENSE CIRCLES WHEN HE TOOK OFFICE.
ADDITIONAL WORRIES WERE CAUSED BY THE FACT THAT FORMER
DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS DURING HIS
LAST SIX MONTHS IN OFFICE DISTRACTED HIM FROM MAKING
DECISIONS ON A NUMBER OF PRESSING MILITARY ISSUES
AWAITING TOP-LEVEL CONSIDERATION.

3. ONLY SIX WEEKS AFTER TAKING OFFICE APEL HAS MADE
THREE MAJOR DECISIONS, REVERSING OR MODIFYING THE
POLICIES OF HIS PREDECESSOR.

4. AFTER A TWO-DAY CLOSED SESSION WITH SENIOR DEFENSE
OFFICIALS OVER THE MARCH 18-19 WEEKEND, APEL ANNOUNCED
ON MARCH 21 THAT THE LONG-AWAITED RESTRUCTURING OF THE
BUNDESWEHR, ON WHICH PLANNING HAD BEGUN IN THE EARLY
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PAGE 03 BONN 05539 01 OF 03 281917Z

SEVENTIES UNDER THEN DEFENSE MINISTER HELMUT SCHMIDT,
WOULD BE RECONSIDERED FOR BUDGETARY REASONS.

5. THE BUNDESWEHR SINCE ITS INCEPTION HAS GONE THROUGH
THREE MAJOR STRUCTURAL REORGANIZATIONS, THE LATEST
KNOWN AS ARMY MODEL III, ITS PRESENT CONFIGURATION. IN
THE EARLY 1970'S A NUMBER OF PROGRESSIVE GERMAN MILITARY
PLANNERS BEGAN CONSIDERING THE PROBLEMS THAT WOULD BE
FACING A EUROPEAN ARMY OF THE FUTURE: AN ARMY WHICH
WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH HIGH POPULATION DENSITIES, THE
INTRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY, VASTLY INCREASED
FIREPOWER AND NEW RAPID COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AND
EVER-INCREASING TACTICAL MOBILITY. TO MEET THE NEEDS
OF THE 1980'S AND 90'S A NEW MODEL IV ARMY OF THE
FUTURE CONCEPT WAS CONCEIVED AND PLANNING DEVELOPMENT
BEGUN.

6. THIS NEW ARMY MODEL WAS TO BE MOBILE, HIGHLY
MECHANIZED, WITH AN INCREASED FIREPOWER RATIO AND A
VASTLY IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMAND AND CONTROL
SYSTEM. TO SATISFY A LONG-STANDING NATO DESIRE FOR
A FULL 36 GERMAN BRIGADES, THE BUNDESWEHR CREATED THREE

EXPERIMENTAL BRIGADES, CONSISTING OF FOUR RATHER THAN

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PAGE 01 BONN 05539 02 OF 03 281918Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 03 BONN 05539

THREE COMPANIES. USING THE SAME NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AS THE OTHER 33 FRG BRIGADES, THE THREE NEW BRIGADES WERE CONFIGURED INTO SMALLER UNITS, WITH GREATER MOBILITY, FIREPOWER AND AN IMPROVED COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM.

7. THE NEW CONCEPT WAS REPEATEDLY TESTED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, MOST RECENTLY IN HESSEN AT THE FRG-HOSTED FALL MANEUVER "STANDHAFTE CHATTEN," WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN ITS LAST MAJOR TEST BEFORE FULL IMPLEMENTATION BY THE BUNDESWEHR. THE EVOLUTION OF THE ARMY MODEL IV CONCEPT HAS ALSO BEEN CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THE FRG'S EUROPEAN ALLIES AS WELL AS BY U.S. MILITARY PLANNERS.

8. THE INCREASES IN HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ALSO CALLED FOR AN UPGRADING OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL RANK STRUCTURE,
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PAGE 02 BONN 05539 02 OF 03 281918Z

MOST NOTICEABLY IN THE ENLISTED GRADES. IT WAS ASSUMED THAT DRAFTEES WITH ONLY FIFTEEN MONTHS OF REQUIRED SERVICE COULD NOT BE TRAINED TO MAN OR MAINTAIN THE SPECIALIZED NEW EQUIPMENT AND THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO UPGRADE PERSONNEL MANNING TABLES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CAREER PROFESSIONALS.

9. THE PROJECTED PERSONNEL COSTS TO ESTABLISH SUCH A CADRE OF CAREER SOLDIERS IS REPORTED TO RANGE FROM 800 MILLION TO 1 BILLION DM PER ANNUM. THE VAST PERSONNEL COST INCREASES ARE WHAT PROMPTED DEFENSE MINISTER APEL TO RECONSIDER THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW CONCEPT THROUGHOUT THE BUNDESWEHR. HE HAS DIRECTED THE MILITARY PLANNERS TO RECONSIDER THE PROBLEM OF INCREASED PERSONNEL COSTS AND DETERMINE IF THE DESIRED CHANGES CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED IN A LESS COSTLY MANNER. APEL HAS GIVEN THE MILITARY TWO MONTHS TO RESTUDY THE PROPOSAL BEFORE HE WILL MAKE HIS FINAL DECISION ON THE ARMY MODEL IV IN EARLY JUNE.

10. POLITICALLY THE ARMY MODEL IV CONCEPT HAS HAD BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION PARTIES' SUPPORT SINCE ITS INCEPTION. THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE A DIM VIEW OF APEL'S ATTEMPTS TO MODIFY IT. THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S QUESTIONING OF THE PLAN HAS ALREADY RAISED QUESTIONS IN THE PRESS AND THE BUNDESTAG, AND ATTEMPTS TO SCRAP IT COMPLETELY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LEAD TO A CALL FOR A FULL PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY.

11. AN ADDITIONAL ELEMENT OF THE PROPOSED MILITARY REFORM PLAN WAS THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE A FOURTH MILITARY SERVICE, COMPOSED OF THE LOGISTIC, COMMUNICATIONS, INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER SUPPORT BRANCHES OF THE PRESENT

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PAGE 03 BONN 05539 02 OF 03 281918Z

SERVICES. THIS CONCEPT, STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY GENERAL WUST, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMED FORCES, WHO VIEWED IT AS A MAJOR INNOVATIVE STEP IN THE HISTORY OF THE BUNDESWEHR, WAS DROPPED BY APEL ALTOGETHER.

12. THE PLAN TO CREATE A FOURTH SERVICE HAS BEEN STRONGLY RESISTED SINCE ITS INCEPTION, NOT ONLY BY THE INDIVIDUAL SERVICE CHIEFS BUT BY A BROAD SPECTRUM OF THE OFFICER CORPS, INCLUDING MANY OF THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY ITS IMPLEMENTATION. ITS GENERAL UNPOPULARITY, AND THE FACT THAT THE INDIVIDUAL

SERVICE CHIEFS HAVE GONE PUBLIC IN OPPOSITION TO IT ON
A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, MADE APEL'S DECISION EASIER.

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PAGE 01 BONN 05539 03 OF 03 281917Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 05539

13. ON MARCH 22, DEFENSE MINISTER APEL ALSO RESCINDED
HIS PREDECESSOR'S DECISION TO HAVE THE MAD (MILITAERISCHE
ABSCHIRMDIENST), THE FRG MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE,
REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE.
ON NOVEMBER 1, 1977, LEBER -- AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE
LUTZE/WIEGEL ESPIONAGE AFFAIR -- HAD DIRECTED THAT THE
MAD REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN THE
DEFENSE MINISTRY IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE DIRECT ACCESS TO
MAD ACTIVITIES. IN REVERSING LEBER'S ACTION, APEL
STATED THAT SUCH DIRECT SUBORDINATION WOULD NECESSITATE
THE CREATION OF AN ADDITIONAL BUREAUCRATIC APPARATUS
AS WELL AS CREATE AN INTELLIGENCE GAP ON THE MILITARY
SIDE. THE MAD WILL NOW AGAIN REPORT THROUGH THE
MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND TO THE APPROPRIATE STATE
SECRETARY. IN CASES OF A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE STATE
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PAGE 02 BONN 05539 03 OF 03 281917Z

THE MAD CHIEF DOES, HOWEVER, RETAIN THE AUTHORITY TO
REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE.

14. BONN POLITICAL OBSERVERS VIEW APEL'S MOVE AS A
SOLID EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF
THE MILITARY TO PERFORM THIS SENSITIVE FUNCTION WITHOUT
EXCESSIVE CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT.
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